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Ministry of Advanced Education

$15M FOR NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING AT ROYAL ROADS

VICTORIA – The Province is providing $15 million to Royal Roads University to fund the first new academic building to be constructed since RRU's transition from a military college to a university, announced Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell.

"RRU has expanded at a rapid pace in order to provide students with career-oriented applied degrees," said Coell. "The new building is part of our promise to expand programs related to business and the economy."

Currently, the university offers classes to 3,000 students even though the original buildings were built for only 300 cadets. RRU is able to accommodate the larger student body by combining distance education with short, intensive on-campus residencies. This enables students to participate in degree programs while continuing to advance in the workplace. The building can accommodate over 1,000 RRU students annually.

"While RRU has an extremely efficient model for using the existing buildings on our campus, the reality is we urgently need new space," said Royal Roads University president Allan Cahoon. "We've averaged a 10 per cent increase in new students in each of the last two years and are projecting to grow another 11 per cent this year, so this new facility will allow us to serve more learners and serve them better."

The proposed new academic building will add a total of 4,571 gross square metres, and will include space for classrooms, seminar rooms, computer labs and academic offices.

"We are impressed with RRU's plans for ensuring the new building will create zero greenhouse gas emissions," said Coell. "Government is committed to supporting sustainable and environmentally friendly building designs at our post-secondary institutions."

The university intends to attain a Gold Certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for this and all future campus projects.

The total estimated project cost is $23,600,000 with the remainder of non-provincial government funding coming from RRU through internal financing and fundraising initiatives.

Since 2001, the Province has provided more than $1 billion in new funding for 904 capital and equipment projects on campuses throughout B.C. and has allocated almost $700 million in capital funding over the next three years to accommodate further growth and renewal. To date, the Province has also funded almost 16,000 new seats at B.C.'s universities, colleges, institutes and university colleges.

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